

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-9 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2-3 and 6-8 have been amended to depend from claim 9.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bacher et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,308,484), hereinafter Bacher, in view of Schwanekamp et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,779,898), hereinafter Schwanekamp. The Office Action alleges that Bacher discloses all the limitations of independent claim 1, with exception of the at least one control body displaceable in the housing. The missing disclosure is allegedly provided by Schwanekamp. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of Bacher and Schwanekamp for the reasons set forth in the Office Action reply of September 15, 2008. However, in order to further the prosecution of the application, applicants have canceled claim 1 and have amended claims 2-3 and 6-8 to depend from claim 9.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claim 9 is allowed. In order to further the prosecution of the case and to place all pending claims in condition for allowance, Applicants have amended dependent claims 2-3 and 6-8 to depend from allowed claim 9. Dependent claims 4-5 depend from allowable claim 9 through intermediate claim 3. Thus, claims 2-8 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claim 9.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/544,236
Amdt. dated January 27, 2009
Reply to Office Action of November 6, 2008

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (415) 273-4317 (direct dial).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mihailovic". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "J" being large and prominent.

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